

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9 and 11 have been amended and claim 10 has been canceled. New claims 12-22 are presented. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-22 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *WO 99/54157*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. *WO 99/54157* discloses a two-part ring with engagement portions 13a, 13b which engage in a tongue and slot manner. The engagement portions 13a, 13b are “crimped” only in the manner in which the engagement portions 13a, 13b fit in a press fit interference manner [see page 5:26-6:5]. *WO 99/54157* fails to disclose opposed pinched areas as recited in the amended claims. The claims are properly allowable.

Claims 2, 4-6, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *WO 99/54157*. The Examiner admits that *WO 99/54157* fails to disclose “various design details claimed.” The Examiner suggests that these details have insignificant impact on the functioning of the device and that it is merely a design choice. This simply cannot be supported. *WO 99/54157* operates in a completely different way than Applicant’s claimed invention. As discussed above, *WO 99/54157* fails to disclose a pinched area of any sort. Furthermore, *WO 99/54157* relies greatly on the abrasive grains 12 which suggests that *WO 99/54157* utilized conventional plastic deformation which drives the abrasive grains into the outer periphery of the stabilizer bar [see page 8:14-8:22].

New claims 18-22 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable. Claim 18 recites an anti-shift collar with opposed pinched areas which retain the anti-shift collar to said stabilizer bar. None of the cited references disclosed such “pinching.”

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

To correct a typographical error, reference numeral 46 has been changed to 47 in Figure 4.

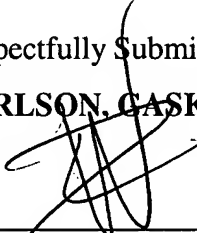
Figure 5 was amended to include an axis to define movement of a pinched portion.

These drawings replace the previously filed drawings.

Please charge \$18.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for 1 claim in excess of 20. If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Dated: October 13, 2004

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